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U.S. Dept. of AgricultureSTATEMENT BY STATE EXTENSION REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE ANNUAL Department of AgricultureOUTLOOK CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.October 18 - 23, 1943

The State representatives attending the 21st Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference wish to express their appreciation to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, and the Federal Extension Service for the excellent program provided this year.

We have all profited much by the discussion of those broad, general subjects of vital interest to farm people by high-caliber men and women well qualified to discuss these subjects.

We have been invited to make suggestions for next year's conference.

General Sessions

While we wish to have discussed such broad topics as policy concerning wages, taxes, prices, international problems, food production and food needs, etc., we should like more opportunity to discuss specific questions with the speakers or other qualified persons.

We believe that the auditorium is not a suitable place for effective discussion. We suggest that the general sessions, with formal presentation, be held as this year and that smaller group discussions be provided for the topics of most acute interest to State extension workers. We believe that specific questions may be discussed with the forenoon speakers or other qualified persons more effectively under this plan.

One of the outstanding values of the annual conference is the opportunity it provides for getting the opinions of men and women from other States on questions which are of interest to all the States. These opinions can best be brought out by more discussion on the part of State representatives.

Commodity Sessions

The commodity discussion sessions provide an opportunity for State workers to acquire up-to-date information on the most recent developments regarding important farm crop and livestock enterprises. At these sessions State people would like to have representatives from several bureaus or agencies so that questions of production, supply, price supports, Government purchases, set-asides orders, lend-lease requirements, and the like may be disposed of promptly. These commodity sessions are likely to bring out variations in the situation in different parts of the country which will be helpful to State extension workers and possibly to representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Sessions for Home Economists

The home economists from the States appreciate the special-interest sessions set up for their benefit this year - the sessions on Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics publications, simplification of bulletins, and housework simplification. In addition to sessions of this nature, we'd like an opportunity to discuss the economics information on some of the most important phases of the Outlook for Family Living with those staff members of the Family Economics Division who prepared it. They have given to it much study and thought, and we feel we could profitably discuss it with them and with each other.

For example, an opportunity might be provided for those home economists from the States who are interested, to discuss the economics of the household equipment situation with those who prepared that part of the Outlook for Farm Family Living. Similar discussion groups might be planned for the clothing situation, medical care, or any of those phases that seem especially important at the time. These should be scheduled so that State people can attend all of them if they wish.

These sessions should be set up only as special-interest group sessions - in the morning before the general sessions, at lunch or at other times where those especially interested can attend. They should not encroach upon the main sessions.

We hope that extension sessions of the Outlook Conference -- both the home economics and joint sessions -- will continue to provide opportunity to discuss applications of economic information to farm and family problems, and to methods of helping people with these problems.

Topics for the 1944 Conference

In order to assist the program committee in Washington, we recommend that our committee of State representatives canvass the State people prior to the preparation of the 1944 program for suggestions of the subject matter they wish to have discussed, and that the most important topics be made available to the Federal Extension Service for use by the Washington program committee.

The personnel of this State committee is: M. C. Bond, New York; Helen Alverson, Virginia; L. R. Breithaupt, Oregon; J. V. Pace, Mississippi; Dorothy Simmons, Iowa; and V. R. Wertz, Ohio.

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